

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07842 190748Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
NRC-07 /083 W
-----033541 191520Z /75

R 181215Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1674
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7842

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR,IN, US
SUBJECT: MORE ON NANDA DEVI DEVICE

1. MOST NEW DELHI DAILIES PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS MAY 18 OF A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY REPS. OTTINGER, DINGELL AND MAGUIRE TO PRESS PRESIDENT CARTER TO MAKE PUBLIC MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE US USE OF NUCLEAR GENERATORS SUCH AS THE ONE LOST ON NANDA DEVI. COMPLAINING ABOUT THE CIA'S REFUSAL TO DECLASSIFY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE USE OF SUCH GENERATORS, THE CONGRESSMEN REPORTEDLY THREATENED TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THE SUBJECT IF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE NOT MORE FORTHCOMING. THEY ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE CONTRASTED THE CIA'S SILENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE.

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE CONGRESSMEN ACCUSED THE ADMINISTRATION OF APPLYING A DOUBLE STANDARD IN RESPONDING TO NUCLEAR MISHAPS AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE CONGRESSMEN REFERRED TO AN INCIDENT IN 1968 WHEN TWO SNAP UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERATORS WERE LOST OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST, AND SAID "IN CONTRAST TO ITS BEHAVIOR IN THE INDIAN INCIDENT, THE US GOVERNMENT ENLISTED A NAVY DEEP-SEA SUBMARINE FOR A 6-MONTH SEARCH TO RECOVER THE TWO DEVICES." REP. MAGUIRE IS SAID TO HAVE CALLED FOR "THE SAME AMOUNT OF VIGILANCE" IN THE INDIAN CASE, CLAIMING THAT THERE IS NO SAFE THRESHOLD TO LOW LEVELS OF RADIATION. A FACT-SHEET CIRCULATED AT THE PRESS

CONFERENCE STATED THAT THE LOST GENERATOR POSES "POSSIBLE DANGERS" BECAUSE "IT MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THE AVALANCHE AND PLUTONIUM MAY ALREADY BE LEAKING INTO THE SNOW....ONCE THE PLUTONIUM REACHED THE (GANGES) RIVER IT WILL BE BEYOND RETRIEVAL."

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON THIS SUBJECT.
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, LISTENING DEVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780211-0631
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780545/aaaablta.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: adc5309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 2651713
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ON NANDA DEVI DEVICE
TAGS: PINR, IN, US, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/adc5309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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